



DAVID SANDERS, PH.D.  
Director

## County of Los Angeles DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

425 Shatto Place, Los Angeles, California 90020  
(213) 351-5602

April 26, 2005

**Board of Supervisors**

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Fifth District

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**APPROVAL OF COMMUNITY FAMILY PRESERVATION NETWORK AMENDMENTS  
FOR ALTERNATIVE RESPONSE SERVICES (ARS) PROGRAM  
(All Supervisorial Districts) (3- Votes)**

**JOINT RECOMMENDATIONS WITH THE DIRECTOR OF MENTAL HEALTH AND  
THE CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Approve use of the attached Form Amendments (Attachments B and C) to amend existing Community Family Preservation Network (CFPN) Services Agreements with the thirty-four (34) CFPN agencies listed in Attachment A to increase the maximum contract amounts in the aggregate total of \$4,864,853 effective the date of execution of the individual amendments through June 30, 2005 for provision of Alternative Response Services (ARS). The cost of the Amendments is financed using Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) revenue, PSSF-Cohort I revenue (including FY 2003-2004 Rollover), Kid's Plate revenue, and Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) revenue with no net County Cost. Sufficient funding is included in the FY 2004-05 Adopted Budget.

2. Delegate authority to the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the Director of the Department of Mental Health (DMH), and the Chief Probation Officer to execute the Amendments with the agencies and in the amounts listed in Attachment A; and instruct the Director of DCFS to notify your Board and the Chief Administrative Office (CAO) in writing within ten (10) working days of executing the Amendments.

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

DCFS estimates that approximately \$4,865,000 of State/federal revenue is available to provide Differential Response/Emergency Family Preservation (DR/EFP) services using the County's ARS model through June 30, 2005. The recommended actions would enable 34 of the 38 CFPN contractors to implement and expand DR/EFP services, using the County's ARS model. These services are designed to serve families reported to DCFS for which allegations of abuse and/or neglect are unsubstantiated or inconclusive, and a determination has been made that child safety would be enhanced by involving the family in these services. Approximately 2,211 families would be served with these Amendments at an approximate monthly cost of \$1,100 per family. Provision of these services will further DCFS' goal to reduce reliance on out-of-home care.

DCFS has requested and received approval from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Office of Child Abuse Prevention for its plan to contract for ARS with CFPN service providers.

If the recommended actions are not approved, ARS services through the CFPN network will not be available.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The recommended actions are consistent with the principles of the County Strategic Plan Goals 1 (Service Excellence) and 5 (Children and Families' Well-Being). The recommended actions will provide for additional CFPN services and collaborate/integrate services for children and families across functional and jurisdictional boundaries.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The maximum cost of the Amendments with the thirty-four (34) CFPN agencies is \$4,864,853. These costs will be financed using PSSF, Cohort I (including FY 2003-2004 Rollover), Kid's Plate and Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) revenue; there will be no net County cost. Sufficient funding is available in the FY 2004/05 Adopted Budget.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

We currently have Agreements with 38 CFPN agencies. Of the 38 Agreements, 29 were amended in June 2004 to supplement funding for those agencies with the capacity to provide DR/EFP services. Since that time, five (5) additional agencies have indicated they now have the capacity to provide DR/EFP services.

Two different Amendments (Attachments B and C) are necessary to expand ARS programs. Attachment B will be used for twenty-nine (29) CFPN contracts previously funded on June 8, 2004 to provide DR/EFP services. Attachment C will be used for the five (5) CFPN contractors which had not previously provided DR/EFP services. The remaining four (4) CFPN contractors have notified the County of their decisions not to participate.

Prior to the Amendment approved on June 8, 2004, only families for whom a Hotline referral had been "substantiated" could be referred to the CFPN agencies for services. With the ARS design, Children's Social Workers (CSWs) may refer cases to CFPN agencies where the reports of child abuse/neglect have been found to be unsubstantiated or are inconclusive. These services will provide an expedited response and involvement of the referred families with a CFPN agency, will enhance the safety and well-being of the affected children, and assist in preventing future incidents and potential removal/detention of the children.

The Form Amendments, Attachments B and C, incorporate revised budgets to reflect the increase in funding for those agencies affected. Previous amendments to the CFPN contracts specify that the County has no obligation to pay for services exceeding the maximum contract amount. Further, the contractors will not be asked to perform services that exceed the contract amount, scope of work, or contract dates.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
April 26, 2005  
Page 4

Each of the contractors listed in Attachment A are in compliance with Board, Chief Administrative Office, and County Counsel requirements.

This Board letter and the two Form Amendments have been reviewed by County Counsel and the CAO. County Counsel has approved the Form Amendments as to form.

### **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

No RFP was issued for these funds because there was not enough time to select new contractors to expend these funds by June 30, 2005. DCFS has requested and received approval from the CDSS Office of Child Abuse Prevention for its plan to contract for ARS programs using existing CFPN service providers through June 30, 2005.

DCFS has determined that the Living Wage Ordinance Program (County Code Chapter 2.201) does not apply.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES**

Approval of the thirty-four (34) Amendments with CFPN agencies will provide for expansion of intervention services to families regarding whom a report of child abuse/neglect was found, upon investigation, to be either unsubstantiated or inconclusive. ARS programs will provide CFPN services to families that may be experiencing problems in effective family functioning, which, in many cases, may prevent future reports of child abuse/neglect and subsequent removal of the children from their homes.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
April 26, 2005  
Page 5

## **CONCLUSION**

Upon approval by your Board, it is requested that the Executive Officer/Clerk of the Board send a copy of the adopted Board letter and attachments to:

1. Dept. of Children and Family Services  
Contracts Administration  
Attn: Walter Chan, Manager  
425 Shatto Place, Room 400  
Los Angeles, CA 90020
2. Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W., Director  
Department of Mental Health  
550 South Vermont Ave., 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90020
3. Paul Higa  
Acting Chief Probation Officer  
Probation Department  
9150 East Imperial Highway, Room B/82  
Downey, CA 90242
4. Office of the County Counsel  
Attn: Tom Fagan  
Deputy County Counsel  
201 Centre Plaza Drive  
Ground Floor  
Monterey Park, CA 91754

Respectfully Submitted,

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DAVID SANDERS, PH.D.  
Director, Department of  
Children and Family Services

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PAUL HIGA  
Chief Probation Officer  
Probation Department

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MARVIN J. SOUTHARD, D.S.W.  
Director, Department of  
Mental Health

DS:rd

Attachments (3)

c: Chief Administrative Office  
Commission for Children and Families